

Remarks:

The Applicants will hereinafter address each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in turn.

In the Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) alleging the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Following the present claim cancellations, the objection to the drawing has become moot. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Specification:

The Examiner objected to the specification at page 12, lines 30-31 (paragraph [0050] in published application no. U.S. 2003/0058425 A1). The Applicants have currently amended paragraph [0050] and believe this amendment overcomes the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Claims:

The Examiner objected to claim 1 on informalities of redundancy and clarity issues. The Examiner rejected claims 10, 26, and 27 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement and claims 24 and 25 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 10-23, and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,005 to Horikawa (hereinafter "Horikawa") and claims 1-7, 9-23, and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,570,645 to Korenaga et al. (hereinafter "Korenaga").

Claim Objections

The Applicants have currently amended claim 1 and believe the amendment overcomes the Examiner's informalities objections. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the objections be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Although the Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's position regarding the § 112 rejections, in order to minimize costs, claims 10 and 24-27 have been canceled. However, the Applicants respectfully reserve the right to re-present these claims and make any amendments to the specification and drawings as may be necessary. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Horikawa and Korenaga fail to disclose a flexible member that is rigid to movement in at least one degree of freedom perpendicular to the surface and flexible in other degrees of freedom. Therefore, because each claim limitation of the present application is not shown in the prior art, the cited prior art does not anticipate the invention as claimed in the present application. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

The Applicants presently add new claims 34-44 for examination. New claims 34-44 do not contain new matter.

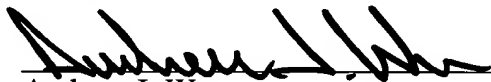
In order to minimize costs, the Applicants currently cancel claims 3, 4, 7, and 10-33. However, the Applicants respectfully reserve the right to re-submit this subject matter and make any amendments to the specification and/or drawings which may be necessary.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully request the above amendments and remarks be entered into the file of the above-referenced application and request reconsideration of the application. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. No fees are believed due at this time for submission of the new claims. However, Applicants petition herewith for a three month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), therefore, a fee, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), is due at this time and authorization is given to charge this fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150 (order no. 10636-003-999).

Respectfully submitted,

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Andrew J. Wu 43,292
For: Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32,797)
PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP
3300 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94304
(650) 493-4935